

Ronald Lee Koontz



Capt. Ronald Lee Koontz (Ret.), 87, died Thursday, January 29, at his home in Medford, New Jersey. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Class of 1960, Ron attended Submarine School in New London, Connecticut, following graduation. His at-sea assignments included sixteen years aboard submarines, including a tour as commanding officer. His shore duty included the United States Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California; two tours at Pearl Harbor; and three tours in the Washington, D.C., area, where he continued his work in Naval Communications and served as a Submarine

Program Manager. While assigned to the Pentagon, Ron earned a second master's degree from Central Michigan University.

Following his naval career, Ron worked for eighteen years at Lockheed Martin in Moorestown, New Jersey, as a Senior Manager in Business Development for Defense and Advanced Naval Systems Research. In December 2004, he received the Dr. Eugene G. Fubini Award from the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), a national-level honor recognizing long-term, meaningful contributions to U.S. national security. He retired on December 31, 2008.

Born November 21, 1938, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Ron was the son of the late Paul E. and Anice Deardorff Koontz. He was preceded in death by his brother, Paul Koontz, a Navy veteran, and his sister, Ruth Koontz Vanasdalan.

Ron married Joyce Ann Kendlehart, daughter of J. William and Gladys Kendlehart of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on June 17, 1961, in the United States Naval Academy Chapel. Born exactly one month apart at Annie Warner Hospital in Gettysburg, Ron and Joyce shared a 65-year marriage.

Ron is survived by his loving wife, Joyce; his daughter, Kendle Priestley, and her husband, Perry Priestley; his son, Kyle Koontz, and his wife, Leah Koontz; and his grandchildren, Heston and Claire Priestley.

Ron will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his quick wit, sense of humor and for his passionate love of sports, especially golf. During his retirement years at Medford Lakes Country Club, he accomplished his goal of shooting "80 at

80" on his home course. He was also a faithful member of Protestant Community Church in Medford Lakes, New Jersey.

Lechner Funeral Home